



**THE YEAR
IN REVIEW
WAYNE
NATIONAL FOREST
2002**



Mary Reddan
Wayne National Forest
Forest Supervisor

FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR

The year 2002 saw many exciting new projects unfold on the Wayne National Forest. It was a year filled with successes—such as the reclamation of gob piles and subsidences that have scarred the land for generations. Other projects—such as relocating eight sections of off-road vehicle trail—ensure that visitor safety remains one of our top priorities. These efforts won two Chief's Awards and one national partnership award.

The Forest Service goal of caring for the land and serving people is a value and commitment shared by employees on the Wayne National Forest. It's what we are all about. We are here to listen to what you

have to say about our stewardship of the natural resources entrusted to us.

I continue to be humbled by the scope of projects on the Wayne National Forest. In 2002 we undertook important initiatives outlined in these pages, as well as lending valuable resources to western firefighting efforts, reactivating our timber sale program, and beginning the process of revising and amending the Forest Plan.

This range of projects is made possible in no small part by the many dedicated partners who enable us to stretch every dollar by rolling up their sleeves and assisting our

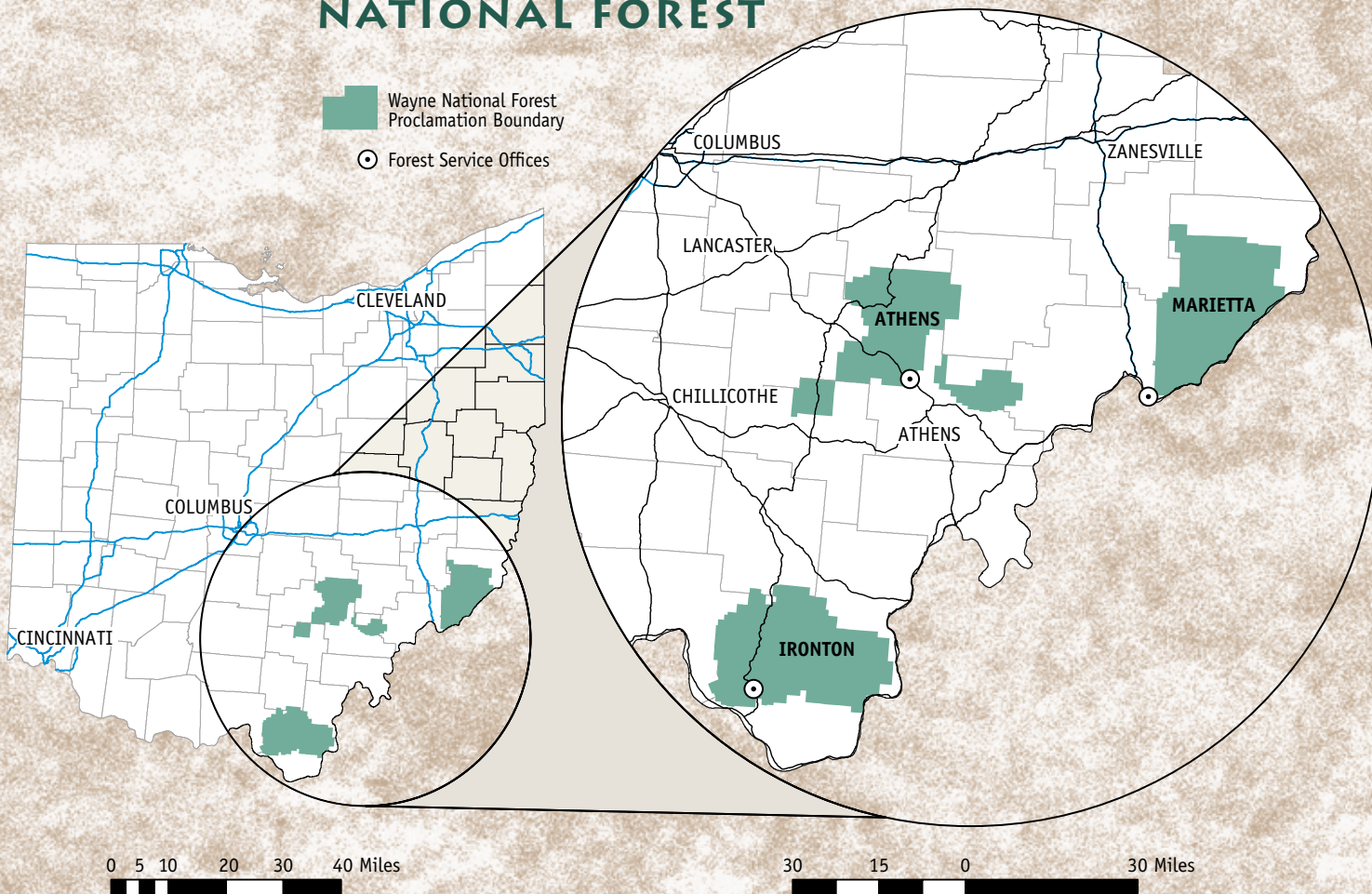
employees on a host of key projects. We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to these citizens for their tireless energy. We couldn't do it without their invaluable support.

My hope is that you will visit us here on your Wayne National Forest, and share your thoughts about how we are doing. Although we are the caretakers of this beautiful public land, you are its owners. And as such, we look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Mary O. Reddan

Wayne National Forest
13700 U.S. Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
740-753-0101

WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST



PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US.

WE ARE COMMITTED to protecting the 233,000 acres of public land on your Wayne National Forest, along with its vast array of unique natural resources.

While we remain focused on accomplishing our current slate of projects, we are also looking toward the future as we revisit the Land and Resource Management Plan. We are making the necessary changes to bring this document more in line with our vision for the new century.

In looking at the Forest's resources we are sworn to protect, it was apparent that not all of our resources were well served by low-intensity management. We addressed this by beginning work to reactivate our long-dormant timber management program.

Protecting your resources is a team effort. Forest visitors who treat the forest with respect and leave only their footprints behind help us protect the land. The many partners and volunteers who work side-by-side with our employees in maintaining trails and restoring our waterways provide an invaluable service that empowers us to better protect our precious resources.



REVISING THE WAYNE FOREST PLAN

The Notice of Intent to revise the Wayne's Land and Resource Management Plan was published on April 4, 2002. This document identifies intended changes during the Plan revision process. Following the release of the Notice, the Forest held 10 public meetings statewide to gather input from the public. These meetings gave us valuable insight into what our multiple users wanted from the Wayne National Forest.

More than 600 individuals, groups, and organizations commented during this period. We have summarized and continue to evaluate their input. Alternatives are now being developed as the plan revision process moves closer to its completion in 2005.

HEALTHY FORESTS INITIATIVE

The Healthy Forests Initiative focuses on protecting forest health and vigor. As more lands return to public ownership, the ongoing challenge of managing natural resources has taken on a new urgency.

Invasive species continue to pose problems on the Forest. Garlic mustard has displaced native plants in the Forest. Some species—such as the garlic mustard—are feeling the effects of our efforts at curtailing their spread. In the Little Storm's Creek Special Area, garlic mustard has been hand pulled every year since 1998, cutting its population in this unique natural area. Thirty-five acres of noxious weeds were eradicated in

2002, surpassing the three acres planned.



Garlic mustard



Gypsy moth caterpillar

The gypsy moth continues its assault on Ohio, doing extensive damage to native trees. In cooperation with key state and federal partners, the Wayne produced an environmental assessment to control gypsy moth in the Hanging Rock area. This assessment led to plans for spraying 1,340 acres of national forest and 311 acres of private land in Lawrence County to slow the moth's spread. Pheromone flakes are aerial sprayed to disrupt the moth's mating process without effecting other plant and animal species. A significant drop in the moth population followed a similar treatment in June 2000.

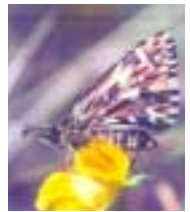


CONSERVATION ASSESSMENTS

The Wayne completed three conservation assessments in 2002. These ensure that we know how to protect viable populations of each of the species who make their home on the Forest.

Two assessments were made on butterflies identified for the Sensitive Species list. The *grizzled skipper* is found on only two national forests, and survives today in small fragmented colonies. Gypsy moth control measures had an adverse impact on the *Olympia Marble* butterfly population in the Appalachian region. Fortunately, we found the butterfly's diminished presence is stabilizing, and the species is becoming more secure.

The third assessment was on the American ginseng. Restrictions were established by the Wayne for collection of this plant consistent with state-run programs, and collection was limited to one-pound dry weight per individual per year.



Grizzled skipper, above; Olympia marble butterfly, left; American Ginseng, below.



BUILDING A PLASTIC ROAD

Using PVC pipe, the Wayne National Forest built an actual "plastic road" for heavy equipment to access and maneuver over deep boggy soils in the Vesuvius lakebed. This innovative technique was used when the drilling rig cored for the footings for the new boardwalk at Vesuvius Lake. The plastic road allowed heavy equipment to work in deep mud and silt without damaging the lake bottom.



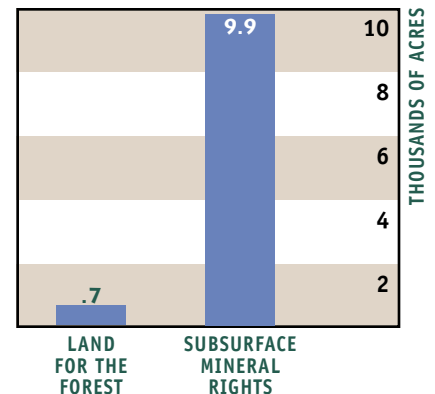
ACQUIRING LAND FOR THE WAYNE

The Wayne continues to grow as money is appropriated for purchasing key tracts of adjacent land. Priority for land acquisition goes to areas with unique features, endangered species, recreation opportunities, or to consolidate the existing land base.

Due to past mining and mineral development, the subsurface ownership of the Wayne has been fragmented over time. Owning the mineral rights under national forest lands will give the Forest control over future drilling or development. Mineral development may then be banned or limited, or may provide revenue and economic benefits.

In 2002, the Wayne had an opportunity to acquire an unprecedented 9,913 acres of subsurface minerals in Lawrence County. Much of this acreage was in the Lake Vesuvius watershed, and helps in further protecting the lake from contaminated runoff or undesirable development.

FY03 LAND ACQUISITIONS



RESTORE THE LAND TO CONSERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.

WE MADE GREAT STRIDES

in 2002 in restoring lands and watersheds on the Wayne National Forest. The Wayne exists because of the need for restoration. Historically they were "the lands nobody wanted," where erosion and unmanaged use prompted Ohio's governor in 1934 to ask the Forest Service to establish a national forest in southeastern Ohio.

Southeastern Ohio is rich in minerals, and has been mined extensively over the years. Mining left a legacy of restoration needs on the Forest. A unique project aimed at eliminating acid mine damage is now being tested and shows great promise.

Elsewhere, 14 mine subsidences—or collapsed mineshafts—were filled in the Monday Creek Watershed and the land re-contoured. An ambitious and mutually beneficial agreement with Hocking College was put in place to rehabilitate a gob pile that had long leached toxins into a nearby stream.

Natural wetlands are being restored and birds and wildlife have returned in abundance.

Using a new technique called natural channel design, the Bear Run stream channel that had frequently flooded, was rerouted using meanders, pools, bank stabilization, and flood plains. This project, completed in partnership with six federal and state agencies, has won numerous awards including the Chief's Stewardship Award in 2002.



USING WOOD FIBER TO CLEAN ACID MINE DRAINAGE

While visiting the Forest Products Laboratory, the Ironton District Ranger learned of a pioneering method for cleaning harmful contaminants from streams using wood fiber filters.

Research showed wood filters could clean phosphates, heavy metals and other contaminants out of runoff from abandoned mines. It is estimated there are approximately 38,500 abandoned or inactive hard rock mine sites affecting national forest lands. Of these, they estimate 6,000 are

causing environmental or human health problems.

On the Wayne, abandoned coal mines and mine tailings regularly contaminate surface water. The Ranger volunteered to install a pilot wood fiber system on the Ironton District. The system is being used to remove stream contaminants and is showing great promise for treating this problem.



Wood fiber filter project

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES: WHAT WE'RE DOING TO HELP



FEDERAL SPECIES	WAYNE NF ACTIVITIES
INDIANA BAT	Survey known Indiana bat hibernaculum and mine openings Construct gates at mine entrances to hibernaculum.
BALD EAGLE	Conduct surveys annually to identify roosts.
AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE	Preparing to reintroduce the American burying beetle.
REGIONAL FOREST SENSITIVE SPECIES	
BLACK BEAR	Promote awareness through workshops, displays and handouts.
BOBCAT	Conduct scent station surveys.
CERULEAN WARBLER	Initiated a territory mapping survey in the Bluegrass Ridge area.
HENSLOW'S SPARROW	Monitor species in reclaimed stripmine areas.
TIMBER RATTLESNAKE	Complete annual surveys in suitable habitats.
OHIO LAMPREY EASTERN SAND DARTER SALAMANDER MUSSEL ROUND HICKORYNUT	Completed a comprehensive survey for these species in the Little Muskingum River and its tributaries. Quality distribution information was obtained for all these species.
BLUE SCORPIONWEED	Complete annual monitoring of populations.
BUTTERNUT	Discovered and mapped several populations.
JUNIPER SEDGE	Surveyed new population in May 2002.
YELLOW GENTIAN	Protect existing population on the Athens Unit.
YELLOW-FRINGED ORCHID	Managed population in place since 1998.

* Many of these activities could not occur without the help of partnerships or volunteers

FACELIFT AT VESUVIUS LAKE

For more than 60 years, Vesuvius Lake has been the place to hike, fish, swim, picnic, or camp. However, the aging dam at Vesuvius no longer met current Federal Dam Safety Standards. To bring the dam into compliance with current standards while retaining its historic character, the lake was drained and the dam was replaced with a roller-compacted core. The original cut-face rocks were carefully numbered and replaced when work on the dam was completed.

The spillway was redesigned and improved, and a new footbridge built in the picnic area. A boardwalk to safely connect the day use area at the dam site with the boat ramp site is under construction. Several other improvements to the area are underway.

While the lake was drained, over 300 Christmas trees were collected from the public. These trees will be placed in the lakebed to provide structure

Biologist with carp flushed from draining lake.



for fish habitat. With the vegetation that has grown up in the lakebed, the fish habitat in the lake should be exceptional once the valve is closed later this summer and the lake is restocked.

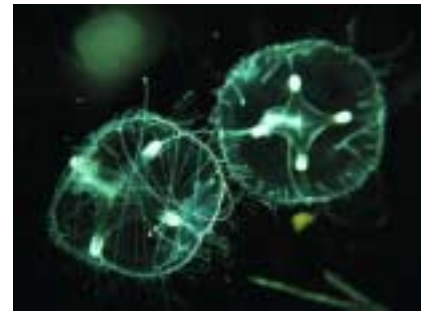
The Forest constructed a path with an observation deck above the dam site so people could watch the work in progress. The post became a frequent stop by locals who watched their dam be reconstructed. Though much of the Vesuvius Recreational Area has been closed to the public for the past two years, a new, safer, and much improved area will soon reopen to cater to new generations of Forest visitors.

FRESHWATER JELLYFISH FOUND AT TIMBRE RIDGE

Only one jellyfish is native to the southern Appalachian mountain area. Though it is not common, the Wayne now has them in abundance. These tiny jellyfish are thriving at Timbre Ridge Lake. Fishermen note that the best fishing seems to be where the populations of jellyfish thrive.

The clear waters of Timbre Ridge Lake, a secluded 100-acre lake seem perfect for these novel organisms.

Rebecca Ewing, Fisheries Biologist, notes that she's had other reports of jellyfish on the Forest and as water quality improves, they may become more abundant.



Two freshwater jellyfish.



Students excavate prehistoric site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ON WAYNE

Dr. Elliot Abrams and students from Ohio University excavated a prehistoric site on the Wayne dating from 7,000 B.C. to 700 B.C. This is the second excavation at the site.

Information is still trickling in on materials collected but the site appears to have been a short-term base camp. Many projectile points and pottery fragments have been recovered

which help establish the timeframe for use at the site.

Soil samples containing food remains suggest the collection of wild foods was a predominant economic activity. The area is also near an outcropping of chert fragments, believed to be a reason the site was used repeatedly for so long by early Americans.

PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.

WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

employees work hard to ensure the Forest is safe for visitors, providing a premier recreational experience. People often tell us the Forest provides a place they can relax and spend time with their children or connect with friends and appreciate America's great outdoors. We're in the business of helping you make memories.

Our challenge is to balance the impact of recreation and needs of our neighbors with the capacity of the land. Trail maintenance and construction are on-going. Natural processes, such as beaver flooding adjacent private land, sometimes require projects to mitigate a problem while minimizing the impact on wildlife.

Events are held year-round to help people enjoy and learn more about the Forest. We offer wildflower hikes and nature programs as well as a fishing derby, workshops, and other events. School groups and volunteer organizations often partner with the Forest to construct wood duck or bluebird boxes, monitor streams, or maintain trails. As people develop ownership in the Forest and learn more about Forest resources, they are more likely to visit.

The Wayne National Forest also contributes to the economy of the area. The Forest consistently leads the region in the number of special uses granted to private individuals or companies. Oil and gas wells, road and utility access rights-of-way, grazing permits, and even timber sales are a dynamic component of the Forest.



RECREATION

In 2002, 160 kids attended a fishing derby at Leith Run. One youngster even reeled in a muskie. Fish habitat continues to improve across the Forest, making fishing one of our primary recreational pastimes.

Nature programs at Vesuvius Lake sponsored by Ohio Southern University attract visitors to the area year-round. The day use area remains open, along with most of the hiking trails. On most days, the observation point above the lake is a busy place as people check the progress on the dam below.



Saturday programs were offered to the public at the Nelsonville office, covering subjects such as "Backyard Birding" and "Being Bear Aware." Educational spring wildflower hikes were also popular with visitors.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Good weather, reduced contract costs, and partnerships resulted in a blockbuster year for trail maintenance on the Wayne. The Wayne maintained 87 miles of trail in 2002! Trails were also rerouted in the Monday Creek Off-road vehicle area, making those trails safer and more enjoyable for the public.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

A popular first in 2002 was the "Escape of Jane," a theatrical performance about the Underground Railroad hosted by the Wayne. The play ties in to research done at historical Underground Railroad sites on the Wayne.

In 2002, research focused on the historic African-American settlement of Paynes Crossing. Now largely obliterated by coal mining, only a cemetery remains. As research continues, clues are unraveling the mysteries of this unusual settlement once active on the Underground Railroad.

Patricia Thomas-Wilson as Jane.

PARTNERS HELP RECLAIM WASTE COAL PILE

Work is underway to reclaim a 2-acre pile of waste coal. The low-grade coal, called gob, was piled nearly 50 feet high on the site, the result of a mine that closed in the early 1900s.



Waste coal at abandoned mine site.

The waste coal pile sits on a steep slope adjacent to a stream that drains into Monday Creek. A strip pit above the gob pile also contributes to acidic water runoff.

In 2002, Hocking Technical College in Nelsonville agreed to help rehabilitate the gob pile area, donating labor and equipment time. The College completed the earthwork according to engineering plans and technical expertise provided by the Forest.

The project allows the college to train students with heavy equipment and get hands-on experience while providing real benefits to the Forest.



WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

In 2002, the Wayne received the prestigious Chief's Stewardship award for the Bear Run Restoration Project.

Bear Run is a small stream, north of Ironton, Ohio, that had been filled in with sediment from past coal mining operations and illegal off-road vehicle use.

Five federal and state agencies worked together to restore the stream using natural channel design concepts. This incorporates the natural meanders, depth, width, and floodplain a stream should have. Each partner provided funds, materials, and expertise to the project.

The restored channel has numerous pools hosting aquatic life and providing water sources for wildlife. Fish are already migrating upstream and reproducing in the restored channel. In a short stretch of the stream recently surveyed, 123 fish were found, representing five different species.



Bear Run Restoration Project

PARTNERSHIPS: SHARING STEWARDSHIP OF THE WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

We couldn't do our job without the support of our partners. The contributions of thirty-three different conservation organizations were honored in the 2002 Partnership Recognition Ceremony.

Partnerships run the gamut from abandoned mine reclamation, watershed restoration, trash removal, tourism promotion, trail maintenance, and environmental education, to reconstruction of wildlife habitat. Two partnerships, the Rural Action's Community Organizing and Support Initiative and the Bear Run Restoration Project Team were recognized for their contributions to projects that won national awards in 2002.

Credits: Garlic mustard photo on p. 3, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England. Gypsy moth caterpillar photo on p. 3, USDA Library. American Ginseng photo on p. 4, US Fish & Wildlife Service. Henslow's sparrow photo on p. 6, Ron Panzer, McHenry County Conservation District, IL.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202/720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202/720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

